

March 7, 2001

takes a small step in helping seniors remain in their homes despite rising property taxes. A step, I hope, we can take this year.

TRIBUTE TO SHONDA RIGGINS OF
SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize the dedication and hard work of the Myrtle Beach Area Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Year. Shonda Riggins, a guest service representative at the Hampton Inn located at 48th Avenue North in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, has displayed over a ten year period how deserving she is of this award. Ms. Riggins is an astute employee who is known for her dependability, generosity, and great southern hospitality. The type of service that Ms. Riggins provides to the guest of the Hampton Inn goes beyond the call of duty. She has proven herself to be an asset to the tourist industry and indispensable to the Hampton Inn.

Examples of Ms. Riggins exemplified service include her handwritten personal postcards to every guest, top-scoring in professional and friendly phone-skills, and a perfect attendance that is also at the top of the charts. Her appearance is always impeccable and she wears, with pride, all of her service pins and buttons. Ms. Riggins is a team player who has shown that she is willing to help in all aspects at any time. This includes such tasks as assisting during hurricane seasons, covering shifts of co-workers, and always being able to keep her cool so that she can help out in whatever way possible.

Over the years Ms. Riggins has received numerous awards and recognition for her continuing great service to the Hampton Inn. This award, though, is an esteemed honor that Ms. Riggins is extremely deserving of. I would like to thank her for her continuing hospitality and support to the tourism industry that is so important to Myrtle Beach. As a thriving part of South Carolina, Ms. Riggins has proven herself to be indispensable to the true meaning of southern hospitality. As the Representative of the First District of South Carolina, I must say that this type of dedication and hard work is refreshing and appreciated to the upmost degree.

THE SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today the Science Teacher Scholarships for Scientists and Engineers Act. The bill is cosponsored by my colleague Mr. WU, and I appreciate his support.

The bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bach-

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

elors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers.

From a series of Science Committee hearings last year about the state of science and math education, and from talking to constituents, students, and educators at home, it has become clear to me that we need to improve science and math education in this country.

In particular, I've come to understand that poor student performance in science and math has much to do with the fact that teachers often have little or no training in the disciplines they are teaching. While the importance of teacher expertise in determining student achievement is widely acknowledged, it is also the case that significant numbers of K-12 students are being taught science and math by unqualified teachers.

Not only do we need to ensure a high quality of science and math education for our students, but we also need to ensure there is sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them. The bill I am introducing today would begin to address the shortage of qualified science and math teachers by providing an incentive for individuals with the content knowledge to try teaching as a career.

Most students emerge from college with a heavy debt load—and studies have shown that average debt has tended upward, since college tuition costs have been increasing faster than inflation. So scholarships would be particularly beneficial for those considering entering the teaching field where starting salaries are relatively low.

Mr. Speaker, to keep economic growth strong in the long-term, we need continued innovation. But innovation doesn't happen by itself—it requires a steady flow of scientists and engineers. My bill can begin to help provide this steady flow and ensure that our future workforce will be prepared to succeed in our increasingly technologically based world. With estimates of 240,000 new science and math elementary and secondary teachers needed over the next decade, we must work to provide the incentives now to bring these teachers into our schools.

For the information of our colleagues I am submitting a summary of the bill.

SCIENCE TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS FOR
SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS ACT

SUMMARY

This bill would authorize a program of one-year, \$7500 scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures.

The purpose: To ensure not only high quality of science and math education but also a sufficient quantity of trained teachers available to teach them.

BACKGROUND

The Science Committee held a series of hearings in the 106th Congress on various aspects of math and science education. From these hearings it became clear that student performance in these areas is weak and that no single factor is the key to improving stu-

3125

dent performance. But the testimony did suggest that a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for improved student performance is teachers with both good content knowledge and pedagogical skills. Current problems in the realm of math and science teaching are difficulties in attracting and retaining math and science teachers and deficiencies in the training of new teachers and in professional development activities for existing teachers.

WHAT THE BILL DOES

Authorization: The bill would authorize the director of the National Science Foundation to make awards to institutions of higher education to provide scholarships to those with bachelors degrees in science, mathematics, or engineering, or those nearing completion of such degrees, to enable them to take the courses they need to become certified as K-12 science or math teachers. Such awards would be made through competitive, merit-based procedures. The bill would authorize \$20 million to be appropriated to NSF for each of the fiscal years 2002, 2003, and 2004.

Eligibility: Institutions of higher education offering bachelors degrees in science, math, and engineering and coursework toward teacher certification are eligible to apply for awards under the program. Individuals provided scholarships shall be undergraduate students majoring in science, math, or engineering who are within one academic year of completion of degree requirements or graduates of bachelors or advanced degree programs in science, math, or engineering.

Requirements for Application: Each scholarship application would include a plan specifying the course of study that would allow the applicant to fulfill the academic requirements for obtaining a teaching certification during the scholarship period.

Work Requirement: As a condition of acceptance of a scholarship under this Act, a recipient would agree to work as a science teacher for a minimum of two years following certification as such a teacher or to repay the amount of the scholarship to NSF.

TRIBUTE TO HIS BEATITUDE MAR
NASRALLAH BOUTROS CARDINAL
SFEIR, MARONITE PATRIARCH
OF ANTIOCH AND ALL THE EAST

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 7, 2001

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, today at a Congressional Luncheon hosted by myself and Rep. RAY LAHOOD, and attended by many Members of the House, we had the privilege of hearing remarks made by His Beatitude Mar Nasrallah Boutros Cardinal Sfeir, Maronite Patriarch of Antioch and all the East. This is the Patriarch's first visit to the United States since 1988, and he is here on the occasion of the elevation of the first American born Maronite Bishop Ralph Shaheen.

While in the United States, the Patriarch expressed his vision of peace for Lebanon and the Middle East Region.

Lebanon, the homeland of my grandfathers and its people, cherish the same values of democracy, respect for human rights, independence and sovereignty cherished by the people of America. That is why the Patriarch, the